1. (Original) A multi-processor data processing system comprising:

(a) the processors of a plurality of point-of-sale terminals, and

(b) a control processor;

wherein the said processors of the plurality of point-of-sale terminals are interconnected in a network and are operable, under the control of the control processor, to concertedly perform data processing operations on bulk data, the said bulk data being subdivided into subdivisions of data by the control processor, for processing by the individual processors of the plurality of point-of-sale terminals.

2. (Original) A method of processing a bulk data set comprising:

(a) operating a control processor to subdivide the bulk data set into subdivisions of data;

(b) operating the control processor to send the subdivisions of data to a plurality of processors, the processors being those of a plurality of point-of-sale terminals connected to the control processor via a network; and

(c) operating the processors of the plurality of point-of-sale terminals to process the said data.

3. (Original) A method of processing a bulk data set as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the processors used for data processing in step (c) are selected for data processing by the control processor on the criterion that, prior to the commencement of the said data processing in step (c), they were substantially idle.

4. (Original) A method of processing a bulk data set as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising sending the results of the data processing to the control processor, from the processors of the plurality of point-of-sale terminals.

5. (Original) A method of processing a bulk data set as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising interrupting the data processing of step (c) of a specific point-of-sale terminal on the criterion of that terminal being required to perform a retail transactions.

6. (New) A retail system in a transaction establishment comprising:

a plurality of point-of-sale terminals connected to each other by a network for processing transactions in a first mode of operation and for analyzing portions of bulk customer history data in a second mode of operation; and

a server connected to the point-of-sale terminals by the network including a control processor for dividing the bulk history data into the portions, for assigning the portions to the point-of-sale terminals, for placing the point-of-sale terminals in the second mode of operation, for receiving results of customer history data analysis from the point-of-sale terminals, and for performing trend analysis on the results to improve operation of the transaction establishment.

a'

7. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the control processor additionally determines whether the point-of-sale terminals are idle before placing the point-of-sale terminals in the second mode of operation.

8. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the point-of-sale terminals suspend the customer history data analysis of the second mode operation to process the transactions of the first mode of operation.

9. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the control processor transfers the portions of the bulk customer history data from first point-of-sale terminals operating in the first mode of operation to second point-of-sale terminals operating in the second mode of operation.

10. (New) A method of processing bulk customer history data comprising:

(a) dividing the bulk customer history data into portions by a control processor of a server;

(b) sending the portions of the bulk customer history data to a plurality of transaction terminals connected to each other and to the server via a network by the control processor;

(c) causing the transaction terminals to analyze the portions of the bulk customer history data by the control processor;

(d) obtaining results of analyzing the portions of the bulk customer history data from the transaction terminals by the control processor; and

(e) performing trend analysis on the results by the control processor.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein step (c) comprises the substeps of:

(c-1) determining that first transaction terminals are substantially idle by the control processor; and

(c-2) causing only the first transaction terminals to analyze first portions of the bulk customer history data by the control processor.

12. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

(f) determining that first transaction terminals are involved in processing transactions; and

(g) stopping analysis of first portions of the bulk customer history data by the first transaction terminals by the control processor.

a1

13. (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

(h) transferring the first portions of the bulk customer history data to second transaction terminals by the control processor; and

(i) causing the second transaction terminals to analyze the first portions of the bulk customer history data by the control processor.